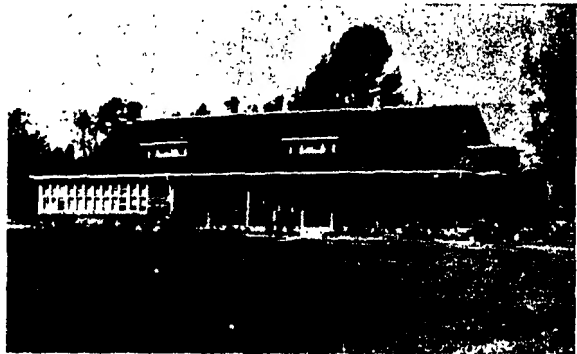




This  
is

# High River, Alberta

*The  
Cowtown  
Capital  
of the  
Foothills*



*Drop In  
To  
Visit*

[ 1950 ]



THE HIGHWOOD RIVER

12255  
This book has been prepared  
through the co-operation of  
the businessmen, profession-  
al men, farmers and ranchers  
of this vast district.

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G. Gustafson — HIGH RIVER LOCKERS — "Save by Freezing"

Our appreciation is expressed to all  
who assisted in the compilation  
of the data contained herein.

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Larry Northey and Harvey Houseman — LAYCRAFT'S DRUG STORE — High River

70.3.25/5



## HIGH RIVER, Alberta, Canada

In the not too long ago, bands of Stoney Indians camped on the convenient crossing of a clear-running mountain stream. They called this camp "Spitzie" where the kindnesses that nature had given their home site were enjoyed by all—the bucks, the squaws and the papooses. And the occasional white trader that wandered nearby used to head for Spitzie, for "The Crossing" afforded the easiest route across the Highwood River.

And as the country opened to the white man's development, a small white settlement began in the pretty country nestling between the Foothills and flat wheat lands to its east. It seemed a homey site in the early days and as development continued emphasis was laid by the settlers on homes and hospitality. They added to nature's trees and wherever possible contributed to the natural setting of this Western town. Gardens, lawns, trees and flowers were happy memories of the lands they had left to "come West" and those early efforts to duplicate former homes are evident in the beauty of present day High River. Today, we have grown to a sturdy little town of over 2000 happy citizens. Yet today, we are proud to number among our citizens many of the old timers who pioneered and settled this area.

In this year of 1950, High River is holding an Old Home Reunion, for many have wandered to other climes with the same spirit of adventure which brought their fathers here. There'll be many coming home to renew the friendships of earlier years, to enjoy again the freshness of our climate, to wander round old haunts among rivers, trees and farm and ranch lands. They will always be welcome here—for this is home and has a reputation for Western hospitality.

And there will be many who will make their first visit to our home. They too, are most welcome and we trust that one visit will be but the forerunner of many, that one friendship will develop into a host of friendships.

We would share with you the beauty of country, the happy friendliness that prompted us to choose this High River as our home.

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Your High River Agent — Charlie Hicklin

# Local Education

## HIGH SCHOOL

High River high school course offers full senior matriculation, qualifying for entrance to any University in Canada. Under an excellent staff of principal and three teachers who have continued on the staff for many years students have graduated with high standing, and many former graduates have since moved up to positions of great responsibility, all over this continent both in professional lines and in the business world. The high school has an enrolment of 145 students, forty of whom are from outside the town. In addition to required subjects it offers a range of optional courses including music, typing, conversational French, geology, art, home economics and farm and home mechanics. The school has a strong traditional spirit and recreations are governed by a Students' Union. Sports of all types are encouraged, bringing many regional trophies to the school.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL

Three generations of High River residents have gone through the local public school. The present public school is staffed by the principal and seven teachers, all experienced and highly competent in their profession. There are 294 children in attendance, 55 of these being conveyed from former one-room rural schools to the town. School has been made a fascinating adventure to the children of today through the many modern projects which each grade carries out. Worthy of special mention is the systematic musical instruction started twenty years ago and carried on consistently since that time throughout public and high school. This has resulted in a higher level of musical appreciation in the town, in stronger choirs, in junior and adult bands, and in general development of vocal and instrumental talent.



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JENKINS' GROCETERIA — 48 Stores in Alberta

# Foothills School Division

This school division, established in 1939, has its headquarters at High River. Roughly it stretches from the mountains to Lake MacGregor and from just north of Okotoks to the correction line three miles north of Nanton. It has an area of about 2000 square miles which until 1938 was divided into 78 small school districts with a secretary and a board for each.

Today the school division does the business of all 78 districts from its office in High River through an elected board of six members, a secretary and its superintendent. One board member is elected by and for each sub-division (usually about 15 to 18 districts).

One realizes that education has become big business when he sees items such as \$60,000.00 for transportation and \$95,000.00 for teachers' salaries in the 1949 expenditures, or when he notes that the care and comfort of 1037 pupils rests in the hands of this one board.

Eight centralized schools and eleven schools of one room accommodate the pupils in this division, whereas 68 schools took care of them in 1938. The number of pupils has not changed appreciably but 647 students rode vans to school in 1949; formerly many of them would have ridden horses a shorter distance over poorer roads. In 1938 it would seem that 67 schools in this area taught more than three grades each, while in 1949, there were but 11 one-room schools still operating. The immensely better chance for teachers to teach and for pupils to obtain teaching service is astounding.

Many of the advantages of the divisional set up may be seen in the above statements, such as: reduced subject load for the teacher, better and more advanced schooling available to most pupils, more transportation of better type. Much more advantage comes from the impersonal nature of the board's dealings with teachers, pupils and suppliers and from the fact that now one board owns all school property and equipment and is able to use it when and where it is most needed, or as in the case of library, to locate most of it centrally and subject to demand by all.



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THE CALGARY HERALD — Has Served Southern Alberta Since 1883

# High River Municipal Hospital



The High River Municipal Hospital District was established in 1921, one of the early ventures of this nature in the province. It was based on a "dollar-a-day" charge for full hospital service plus small tax on property owners or tenant privilege of purchasing family service tickets. Despite rising costs and general expansion the basic rate remains unchanged, and the small hospital tax has increased only slightly.

Through the years the hospital has been modernized and a wing added. It serves an area of approximately 1600 square miles, with five medical doctors and a staff made up of a superintendent, fifteen nurses and two nursing aids. It is a 53-bed hospital, caring for about 1800 persons per year. Facilities include operating rooms, with full equipment; case room, nursery, children's ward; single, two-bed and three bed wards, sun rooms for convalescents, and all mechanical conveniences for efficient service. It is attractively set in well-treed, landscaped grounds.



## DOCTORS' CLINIC

A modernly equipped Medical Clinic in down town High River serves the three resident doctors, together with their nursing and secretarial staff. In 1934 the local doctors introduced a family medical contract, the second of its kind to become operative in Alberta. This was set originally at \$25 per family (raised in later years to \$35 per family) and worked out very satisfactorily. This medical contract allied with municipal hospitalization and the Public Health services has provided a triple set-up which Canadian and U.S. health authorities have studied and commended as "almost ideal."

The advantages of the contract system have been so apparent that this has led naturally to an extension of the plan as offered by Alberta Medical Services Incorporated in 1949. This new type of contract offers still wider service in the way of specialist diagnosis and treatment and is broader in its choice of physician and general coverage. There are 670 families and individuals in this area holding contracts with Medical Services Incorporated.

## TOWN SERVICES

The town is served by the Calgary Power in all its electrical and power requirements and a sub-station is situated here which services the towns and villages around. Heating is by natural gas supplied by the Canadian Western Natural Gas, Light, Heat and Power Company. Water and sewage have been established here for over thirty years and are under town management and ownership. The great majority of our citizens enjoy these facilities and the comforts which are derived from them have brought many new residents to this locality. Town management consists of a Mayor and six councillors. An engineer included on the town staff, directs the use of considerable heavy equipment which keeps the facilities and beauty of High River at a high standard.

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## THE FOOTHILLS HEALTH CLINIC

The Foothills Health Unit was first organized in 1931. This Unit is based in High River and has a sub-office in Black Diamond. The Unit was first organized in 1931 under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation. It was consequently among the first of Rural Health Units to be organized in Canada. The area administered by the Unit is a little over 2500 square miles and holds a population of approximately 21,000. The sparse population over this wide area involves much road travel by the staff of the Unit.

The staff of the Foothills Health Unit consists of the Medical Officer of Health, three Public Health Nurses, a Sanitary Inspector and a Secretary-technician. All the members of the staff have specialist training and qualifications in Public Health.

The responsibility for the administration of the Unit rests with the Local Board of Health. This board consists of representatives of the Municipalities, towns and villages in the area. The representatives are appointed by the respective councils of these local authorities. In all there are 15 members of the Board.

The functions of the Unit are wide and varied and make up a fairly comprehensive program of preventive medicine.

There is a small Public Health Laboratory in the main office at High River. This laboratory deals mostly with the necessities of the routine work of the Unit and by giving prompt facilities, plays a vital part in the service.

Examples of the type of work of the Unit are as follows: Infant and Child Welfare; School Health Service; Communicable Disease Control; Sanitation; Nutrition; Mental Hygiene; Pre-natal and Post-natal Services; Health Education.



BRANDING BEE — OLD TIME STYLE

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## Agriculture

The economy of High River and district is primarily agricultural with the rich oil fields of Turner Valley closely adjacent. In the high rolling foothill country reaching into the

mountains, livestock has always been of paramount importance. Ranching is still the leading activity in these parts. There are many long-established and famous ranches with large land holdings. The owners and brands have long been widely known. A few prominent names might be cited in the personnel of H.R.H. Duke of Windsor, Pat Burns, A. C. Cross, Dan Riley, Rod Macleay, Guy Weadick, Cartwright and Thorpe.

The lower, more level and accessible land has been developed for the growing of grain and forage crops. Here the medium sized family farms predominate, with many large scale operations also in evidence.

In keeping with improved practices, the farms of this area have become almost entirely mechanized. At one time it was a common occurrence to auction a thousand horses at the Annual High River Horse Sale. All that remains now of that profitable activity is the fond memory of many magnificent animals. However, there continues a definite need for horses on the range in the foothills. At the time of the Annual Rodeo there is always an influx of outstanding saddle horses and some draft teams for competition and show purposes.

Farmers in this locale are ever cognizant of commodity prices and markets, and adjust their production programme as seems most advantageous to the existing circumstances. During the war years, with an abundance of grains in storage and insistent markets for swine products, expanded hog production was the order. With increased prices and demand for all grains, the ardor for hog raising sharply diminished. Recent results demonstrate beef production to be profitable with less labor and equipment. Sheep raising has occupied a minor role on the farms of this region.

## MIXED FARMING

The farm people of High River diversify their activities, but not as extensively as found in some regions. Production is largely governed by labor and equipment. Most farm units are sufficiently large as to make numerous chores an added burden during the grain growing season.

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**BAIRD & CASEY — Real Estate and Insurance — High River**



The raising of beef fits admirably into our system of farming, as labor is reduced to a minimum during the summer months. To maintain high quality beef there are many purebred cattle breeders in this area producing animals of outstanding quality, attested at the National shows and sales. The breeds represented include: Herefords, Shorthorns, Aberdeen-Angus and Galloways. Dairy breeds are not prominent. Milk cows are kept to supply the family needs and give some supplementary revenue. Many thousands of beef cattle are fattened during the fall months on lush summer-fallow cover crops and often finished in feedlots during the winter.

During the second world war farm labor shortage became acute. Thus the swather and combine harvester came into universal use. The larger threshing outfits, with their many stook teams and big crews, have largely disappeared. The loss of straw stacks as feed and shelter for livestock has necessitated the introduction of new equipment. Now the pick-up bales and power hay sweeps are familiar sights throughout the district.

There are some specialties being undertaken and include apiculture and turkey raising. In all, we have a reasonably well balanced agriculture, which augurs well for the future.

## GRAINS

Grains have long been recognized as a quick cash crop for the farmer. The fertility of our soils, coupled with moderate to plentiful precipitation and suitable varieties, have made grain growing an integral part of our farm economy. Wheat has proven adaptable and results in excellent production records. The Town of High River, with seven grain elevators, is a million bushel point. Nearby loading sidings within the district show

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HIGH RIVER HARDWARE — Established 1908

an equal volume for outward movement. Coarse grains have always been grown abundantly by the farmers and ranchers to maintain adequate feed reserves.

Growing grains in this region has brought attendant problems. The ingenuity of our farmers has helped in removing many of the obstacles. The long hours of sunshine, close proximity to the mountains and high altitude causes cool nights and generally clear weather. These factors tend to minimize plant diseases. Power machinery gave rise to greater speeds in tilling the land. The loss of natural soil fibre and high winds caused concern regarding possible soil drifting. Much benefit has resulted through soil conservation practices such as the trash cover and oat cover crops on summerfallow. In recent years insect pests have not been severely destructive. Chemical sprays are being increasingly used on growing crops for destroying annual weeds. Considerable commercial fertilizer is used to increase productivity and hasten maturity of the grain. Improved cultural practices, coupled with greater attention to clean, suitable seed, is resulting in good quality farm crops and satisfactory returns to the farmer.

## FARM HOMES

Farmsteads in this area exhibit an improved permanence, characterizing the people on the land. Our farmers are proud of their holdings and strive for improved homes and equipment in congenial surroundings. Landscaped homes, shelter belts and well painted buildings are to be seen everywhere, with good gardens and suitable displays of flowers. Small fruits are now being developed with considerable degree of success.



The development of all-weather gravel roads has brought many farm families seemingly closer to the athletic, social and cultural activities in the town. This has tended to create a clearer understanding and exhibit a closer kinship between the rural and urban folk. A large percentage of farms in the district are now served with electricity through extended rural power lines, while many more have their own power plants. Many new completely equipped homes have been built and older ones are being modernized. Better homes, general conditions and equipment have engendered a desire amongst the young people to continue on the land. Every year there are those rural students with an aptitude for other skills who continue their studies in universities, seeking wider fields of endeavour. This is as it should be in the social advancement of our time.

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YOUNG'S TRANSPORT — High River

# Wild Life Abounds In District

## UPLAND GAME BIRDS

In 1904, when the farmers started to homestead the High River district, our sharp-tailed grouse, better known as prairie chicken, were quite plentiful throughout the countryside. The breaking up of the prairie sod has pushed them back to the more remote regions, and at the present time they may be found in fair numbers in the foothills. There you find the ruffed grouse, also, another fine native bird whose weird drumming is a familiar sound.

The blue grouse and Franklin's grouse are fairly numerous in the mountains, the former being found on the high grassy ridges, while the latter prefer the dense spruce forests. Anyone who likes climbing can find the rock

ptarmigan above the timber line. These three are also natives of Alberta.

The Hungarian partridge, our gamiest game bird; was introduced into Alberta in 1916, being liberated on the Bar U ranch, and has done wonderfully well in the intervening years; but their numbers vary with the year, due, mainly, to climatic conditions.

The pheasant has also done well in this district. They were introduced in 1920; more were brought in in 1923, and again in 1934. A large shipment was obtained through the Provincial Game Branch in 1949.



## FISH AND GAME ASS'N

For years, members of our association assisted the Department of Fisheries by using their own private autos to transport fish fry to distant points on rivers and creeks. That these fry might grow under protection and later be used to restock the main streams, the association arranged for the closing of the small tributary streams of the Highwood. The fishermen of today are reaping the benefits of this precaution.



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S. & H. Anderson — IMPERIAL SERVICE CO. — Pontiac, Buick, G.M.C. Trucks

In an endeavor to co-operate with the Game Branch of the Provincial and Federal Governments in matters of interest to sportsmen, they have—  
Introduced the Ringneck pheasants to this district (1920). Replenished them in 1934 and 1949.

Obtained a permanent fish warden on the Highwood River.

Annually restocked the tributaries of the Highwood and kept them closed until conditions warrant open fishing.

Cared for the winter feeding of ducks on the Highwood and the Little Bow.

Assisted in pest destruction by obtaining larger bounties on cougars and wolves; organizing annual crow and magpie shoots, and placed an increased bounty on crow and magpie eggs.

Secured protection of deer and other big game.

Curbed pollution of the Highwood by prosecution that resulted in a decided improvement in the disposal of oil well waste.



A CATCH ON KANANASKIS LAKE

## Camera Hunting

From a photographic standpoint Nature was very kind to the people of High River District, for she gave to them vast stretches of prairies to the east, and to the west riding parklands with willow intermingled with poplar; the foothills with their crystal streams flowing through grassy meadows, surrounded by evergreens, and the massive Rocky Mountains with their snow covered peaks in the background.

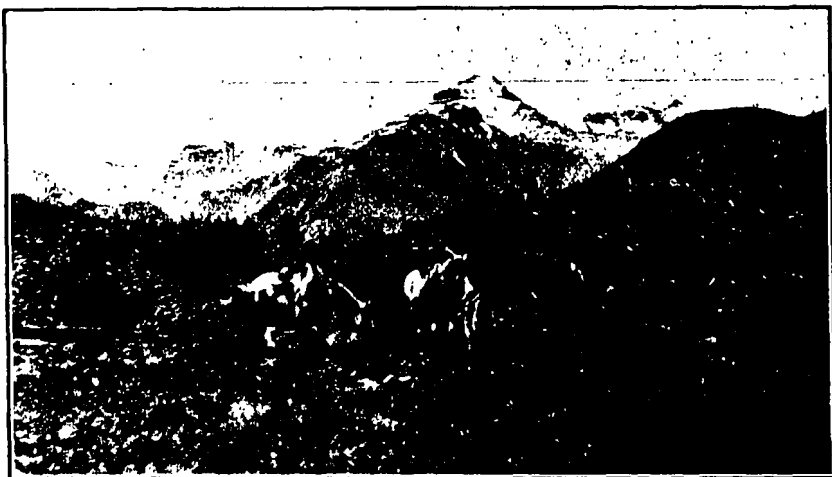
Here the camera hunter can find a large variety of scenes. Should you desire prairie vista, go east, and there you have it! Fields of wheat, farmsteads, farmers working in the fields with fifty Franklin gulls flying around him, and the glistening water of Frankburg Lake in the background.

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THE TOWN OF HIGH RIVER

If you care to go west your camera hunting chances increase, for many beautiful scenes can be taken along the Highwood River where we have such familiar spots as the Mensinger Pool, Blue Rock, Poplar Point. When you get to the Forest Reserve we have Mount Armstrong at 9,161 feet, Carnarvon Creek with its 200-foot falls and many other well-known beauty spots.

If you do your camera hunting carefully and quietly you may get some good wild-life pictures, also. A mule deer may jump in front of you, a moose might be standing in a muskeg, elk watching you from a ridge above, or black bear swimming in Cataract or Misty Creeks.



## Big Game Hunting

Big game hunting is as good here as can be found anywhere in the Province, with elk and moose drawing most of the hunters. Each of these has become well established in the mountains in the last twenty years.

Hundreds of hunters frequent the upper reaches of the Highwood in pursuit of big game during the hunting season, and some very fine specimens have been taken.

Although moose and elk stay pretty well to the mountain region they may sometimes be found roaming the prairies. Mule deer are quite plentiful and have increased, despite the fact that hunting has increased also. They may be found any place there are trees to afford cover as has been seen by the small herd of deer that have been staying just outside the town of High River for a number of years.



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**COLWELL AUTO COURTS — Conveniently located in High River**



Sheep and goat also frequent the Highwood water shed. They are generally found throughout the summer and fall above the timber line feeding on the grassy slopes, where they can watch the surrounding country below.

Black and brown bear are fairly common, and a big grizzly is a prize for any hunter. There are no hunting lodges here, the hunter must have his own camping outfit.

At the present time the hunter can take during open season two horned animals; one must be a sheep or goat, and the other a deer, elk or moose.

## WATERFOWL



Two types of ducks are common through the summer; surface feeders, and the divers or deep water feeders. Three species of the latter breed in this vicinity, namely, the scaup, golden-eye and buffle head. Of the surface feeders we have the mallards, pintails, gadwalls, baldpates, teal, shovelers, which are found almost any place where there are sloughs or marsh lands. The golden eyes and buffle heads being tree ducks, stay pretty well to the lakes and rivers, in the wooded areas, as they nest in hollow trees.

Three other species are found here during migration: Canvas backs, red heads and scoters.

Yes, the hunter can find lots of duck shooting around High River. The bag limits and number of shooting days vary from year to year; last year the limit was eight per day, and forty per season.

Two types of geese are common to this vicinity, the Canada goose and the Lesser snow goose. The Canada breed throughout the district and are found in fair numbers in the fall. Snow geese are here only during migration, but they frequent Frank Lake in large numbers from the end of September till freeze up. Bag limits are five per day, fifteen per season.

Shore birds are numerous, but the hunter can take only Wilson snipe.



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THE ST. GEORGE HOTEL — High River

# High River Sports

## GOLFING

Out here we're in the "Sand Green" area—at least up to the present. But any handicap caused by this feature is overcome in the clear freshness of the western air; the vista of mountains, and trees that greet the good citizen who packed out his clubs instead of his prayer book on a Sunday morning. Ours is a nine hole course, handily at the edge of town and you'll find local golfers take a pride in the upkeep and condition of their course.



## TENNIS

Two courts play hosts to the tennis enthusiasts of the town and district. Constructed of red shale and surrounded by rows of lilac trees, they provide a setting of beauty for this fast and energetic sport enjoyed by both young—and not so young—of the district. So bring along your racquet—you'll find a tennis partner in High River.

## CURLING

It sometimes seems that we await and welcome the winter season—for then it's time to curl and when the rink flooding time comes around, there's a great interest evident. It's quite a rink out here and a great pride for the local curlers. Probably equal to any such facility in any Alberta town, this rink was erected as the result of local enterprise. Of cement brick construction, it houses four sheets of ice, rest rooms, locker room, lunch counter and all the trimmings. Throughout the curling season—frequently interrupted by chinooks—it is the most popular spot in town. And visitors find that High River Bonspiels are tops in entertainment and friendship.



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THE GATEWAY HOTEL — High River



## POLO

Historically, this Western town is probably Alberta's top Polo town—and, although the games are more infrequent of late, polo is a familiar game to us folks 'round here. Out at the Polo grounds just west of town you may still hear the crack as the bamboo ball rolls and spins between the horses' hoofs and riders show skilled horsemanship as they ride off their opponent. There's a thrill to this game of horsemanship and human skill that is seldom seen in other sports.



## HOCKEY

It all started around here in an open air rink down in the park. There the local boys used to bewilder their opponents by scooping the puck up over the lights—if lucky they scored because the goalie couldn't see it coming down. But soon the folks decided a better rink was in order for a budding town and the present building was erected in central High River. It has seen and will continue to see fast hockey—at one time Western Canadian champs in the senior league; last year Alberta champs in the Big Six League.

When hockey is not a headline, the rink is utilized for skating, a sport enjoyed by all who look forward to healthy, fresh air activities.

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CLIFF JOHNSON, Jeweller — "The Gift Store of the District" — Diamond, Watches  
China-ware — High River

# You'll have fun in High River during Rodeo



OLD HOME WEEK — JULY 2 - 9 — 1950

JULY 2 — International I. O. O. F. Picnic

JULY 3 — Registration and Entertainment  
by Memorial Centre Committee

JULY 4 — Rodeo Days.

JULY 5 — Rodeo Days.

JULY 6 — Tours to the East - West - North  
and South.

JULY 7 — Ball Tournament.

JULY 8 — Strawberry Festival — Dance at  
Night.

JULY 9 — Community Service in Park.



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C. R. PAUL — Men's Wear — Boys Too! — High River

This year the Rodeo will be held on July 4 and 5, in conjunction with  
**HIGH RIVER'S "OLD HOME WEEK" — JULY 2 to 9 — 1950**



### RODEO EVENTS

#### TUESDAY, JULY 4...

Frontier Parade — Rodeo Events at  
Grounds — Races — Evening Attractions.

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 5...

Horse Show — Rodeo Events

#### EACH NIGHT...

Cutting Horse Contests.

Chuck Wagon Races -- Indian Races

Special Stage Attractions



This Page Sponsored by ...

**WAYS' GROCERY AND FOOTWEAR — High River**

## OIL AND COAL

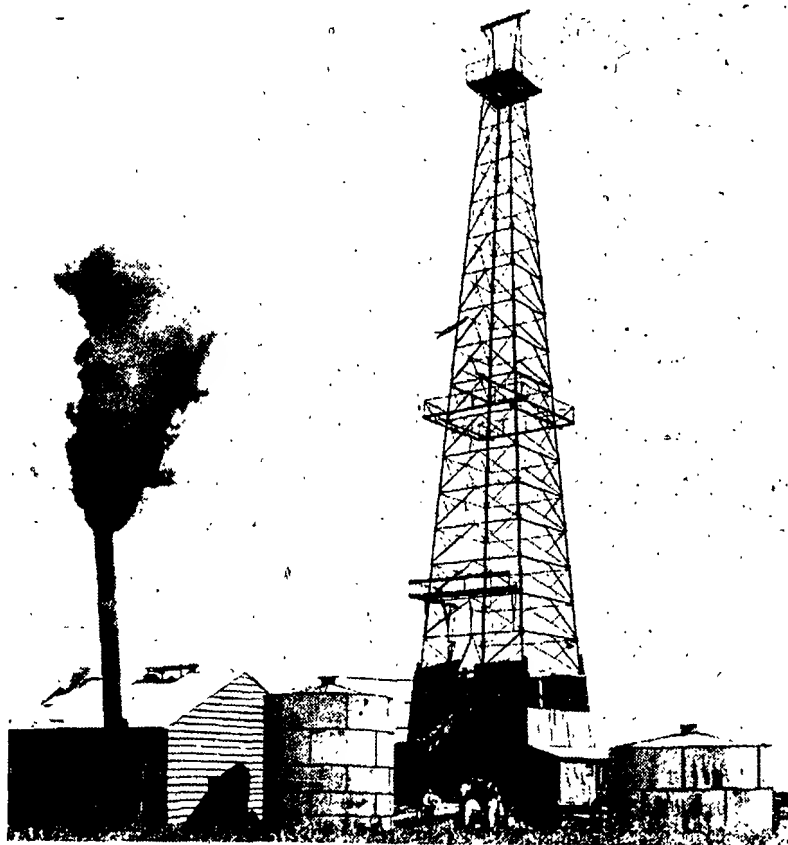
When evening sets in, our western sunsets are echoed by the reflection of burning gas flares over in the Turner Valley oilfields area 18 miles to our west.

While the major interest concerning oil has now moved northward to Leduc, Redwater, the Turner Valley fields are still producing and development and exploration continues in that area.

Turner Valley was first brought to the attention of the public as a potential oilfield in 1913 by A. W. Dingwell, an independent operator. The first large oil producer was the Turner Valley Royalties. That was in 1936.

Today the cattle wander beneath the derricks which dot the foothills landscape, and a frequent sight is that of derricks, stacks of wheat, and cattle all in one view, with Rocky Mountains forming a grand backdrop.

Hidden away in the first range of mountains, west of High River are coal areas of almost unlimited extent. Largely undeveloped at present, these enormous coal deposits will some day be utilized.



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WALES THEATRE — Shows 7 and 9 p.m. — High River

## COMMUNITY AUCTION SALES

In 1946 High River stockmen organized a Community Auction Sales Association, as part of the larger Co-operative Livestock Marketing organization of Southern Alberta. Under this set-up each participating district has its local board that elects a director to act as a representative in the parent directorate. The director manages the sale. Since its establishment the High River Association has completely equipped its own stockyards at which periodic sales are held. Since 1946 this organization has sold 6,323 cattle from the district, bringing distribution of \$935,239 through the community. Membership in this organization is growing. The advantage is that buyers gather in numbers, and that stock may be sold in carlots or less. The seller can split his herd to suit the buyers who provide strong competition amongst each other.



BRANDING SCENE ON THE Y CROSS

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WALTHAM HARDWARE — "Quality Merchandise For Less"

# High River Churches

No community is complete without its churches. High River has eight, besides two congregations who hold their services in halls. The Presbyterian Church lays claim to being the oldest in the community. Prior to 1888 the Rev. Angus Robertson used to hold services in Drew's Stopping House. The first communion service was held in the Charles Spalding home. It was about 1890-91 that the first church building was erected, on the site of the present high school. It was a small frame building, and must have been well built, for it is still serving faithfully as a church for the Apostolic Congregation. The old timers of this district remember the annual Strawberry Festival of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid as the big community event of the year.

St. Benedict's Anglican Church was built in 1903-4, but previous to this services were held in ranch homes, the C.P.R. Station, the Old Astoria, and the Methodist Church. Archdeacon Freemantle Webb was the clergyman in charge at that time. He conducted services at various points in the foothills area. The story is told that, arriving at the Bar U Ranch, and stabling his horse, he would find the ranch-hands spending their Sunday afternoon engrossed in a game of poker.

"Now, how about playing my game?" he would ask them.

"Wait a bit, Parson, until we get a big enough kitty for your game." would come the reply.

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church was built in 1907-1908 under the pastorate of Father N. C. Dubois. However, previous to this, mass was said in various homes; one of the first, in 1903, was said by Father J. M. Lestanc at the house of J. M. Limoges and Mrs. T. W. Robertson. An interesting feature of this church is that the original altar—used until about four years ago—was carved by hand by the Marquis de Roussy de Sales and the Count de Foras.

The United Church developed at the time of union of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in 1925. At present, services are held in the large red brick building which was erected originally by the Presbyterians. The old Methodist Church, the round building used at present by the Nazarenes, was built in 1902 on what is now Riley Park. From there it was moved to the corner of Railroad St. and 3rd Ave., where it served, first, as the church and, after union, as the church hall, until purchased by the Nazarene Church. Missionaries and student ministers conducted early services; the first ordained minister was Rev. Price. Names associated with the building of this church are Dr. Stanley, Sam Heslip, George Mack, Alex Thompson. Sam Heslip offered his implement shed when a large space was needed to hold the first banquet.

The Baptist Church, originally built on the rise of the hill across from the public school, was dedicated in October, 1909, with Rev. J. Milton as pastor.



The Salvation Army has held services faithfully in High River since 1907 when Capt. Minnie Smith was in charge. A fine new hall stands to their credit today, built in 1949-50.

Two later churches are the Nazarene and the Apostolic. These churches began holding services about 1939, and have at present active and thriving congregations.

The Church of Latter Day Saints has held services in the Oddfellows Hall since 1942, while The Christian Science Church meets in the Credit Union Hall every Sunday.

The Town of High River and district has been, consistently, and still continues to be a church conscious community. All these churches and their supporters have contributed much toward building up and maintaining a high moral standard among the citizens, both young and old.

## SERVICE CLUBS AID IN TOWN AND DISTRICT GROWTH



Presently servicing the town are the Rotary Club and the Active Club. They practice service and through their efforts many of High River's improvements have developed. In former years, the Elks' Club served the town faithfully. Today

the Rotary group meets each Thursday evening at 6:30. The Activians gather on the first and third Tuesday of each month for evening meets. Both these clubs would be delighted to entertain any visiting members.



A DISTRICT FARM HOME

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CITIZEN'S LUMBER CO., LTD — High River, Alta.

## The M. D. of Highwood Has Headquarters Here



In accordance with the Provincial Government policy to enlarge Municipal Districts, the M.D. of Highwood No. 31, came into existence on January 1st, 1944. It is made up of the former Municipal Districts of Riley and Sheep Creek and in its present set up covers over 500,000 acres from South of Nanton to the Bow River North of De Winton.

The area is well served with some two hundred and fifty miles of District gravelled roads and in addition the Provincial Hard Surfaced Highway runs practically through the centre of the District from north to south. The Provincial Government has also built secondary highways running from Okotoks west into Turner Valley and the Sunshine Highway running east from High River through Vulcan to Lethbridge. The new highway on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains is readily accessible from Nanton.

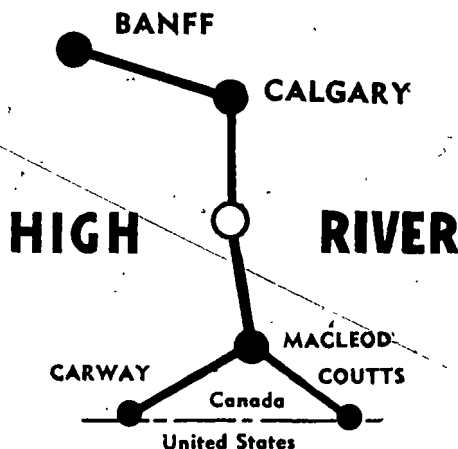
Some of the finest wheat growing land in the Province is located in the Municipal District of Highwood and one of the outstanding cattle shipping points in the Province is the Village of Cayley, the centre of the former District of Riley.

This area is governed by an elected council, each representing one of the five divisions, into which the District is divided. They are responsible for all local government in the area and in addition collect from the Municipal Ratepayers for the School Districts, the Health Unit and the Hospital District.

The climate in the Foothill Country is one of the finest to be found and many fine homes are evidence of the satisfaction of the residents in this District of some thirty-five hundred people.

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## RAIL SERVICE

The town is served by the Canadian Pacific Railway with two trains each day for passenger convenience; freight arriving each day. A telegraph service is maintained. Convenient connections with transcontinental rail service is maintained.

## AIRPORT

The first R.C.A.F. airstation in the West, High River was the site of No. 5 Elementary Training Station during the World War 2 years. Airport facilities are still available at the airport, a couple of miles east of town, for the smaller type of plane.

## BUS AND AUTO FACILITIES

High River is situated on No. 2 highway, a hard-surfaced, all weather route which extends from Edmonton to the border. Just outside of the town, the Sunshine Highway No. 23 joins and provides easy access to the east country.

On the main Greyhound Bus route, there are seventeen busses pass through town each day providing convenient transportation to the east, the west, north and south.

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## Postal and Communication

The High River Post Office took over from the Indians in the tomahawk days of the early eighties and continued since mail was delivered in a soap box for the new white settlers of the West until now when this office is rated the largest on the train run between Calgary and Lethbridge. It serves a wide area in all directions, being more or less the hub of the community. It furnishes excellent service to all post offices by train and rural routes with a hook-up across Canada twice daily (except Sundays) to Trans-Canada Airways via Calgary in the mornings and Lethbridge in the evenings.

All letters posted in Canada addressed for delivery in Canada, weighing one ounce and under, prepaid at four cents, are given air transportation and reach all the larger cities in Canada within a 24-hour period. Air Mail letters to the United States reach their destination in the same time.

Few of us realize the service the post office renders to the world. It enters into every phase of our daily life. It transmits money, carries letters, encourages thrift by its Post Office Savings Bank and Government Annuities. All items of value may be registered for safe and sure delivery and senders can be indemnified up to \$100 in case of loss. The C.O.D. business and Insurance, including sale of Unemployment Insurance Stamps play an active part in Postal services, as does the sale of radio licenses.

There are two rural routes emanating from the High River Post Office, one serving the Pekisko office, the Macleay, the Bar U, and the Duke of Windsor ranches.

Probably half a million pieces of mail matter is handled annually in the High River office by a staff of eight which includes three mail carriers. Postage stamp sales amount to over \$20,000.00 yearly, and about \$100,000.00 is cleared through this office in paid Money Orders, while Money Order sales may amount to \$200,000.00 each year.

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## HARNESS RACING

Harness Racing came out here originally with the boys who came west from "the Island". They brought out the love of the track and were proud owners of high stepping trotters in the early days. Then the game lapsed for some years. But it's back. Summer and winter one of the sights that thrill are the pacers and trotters exercising on High River streets. "Jingle Bells" are not just a song during the Christmas season. The bells jingle throughout the town as the racers from High River stables do their daily dozen. On every May 24 the ponies run at the Rodeo tracks and as they near the finish line, the grandstands seem to rise as the folks pay standing tribute to horsemanship, skill and beauty.

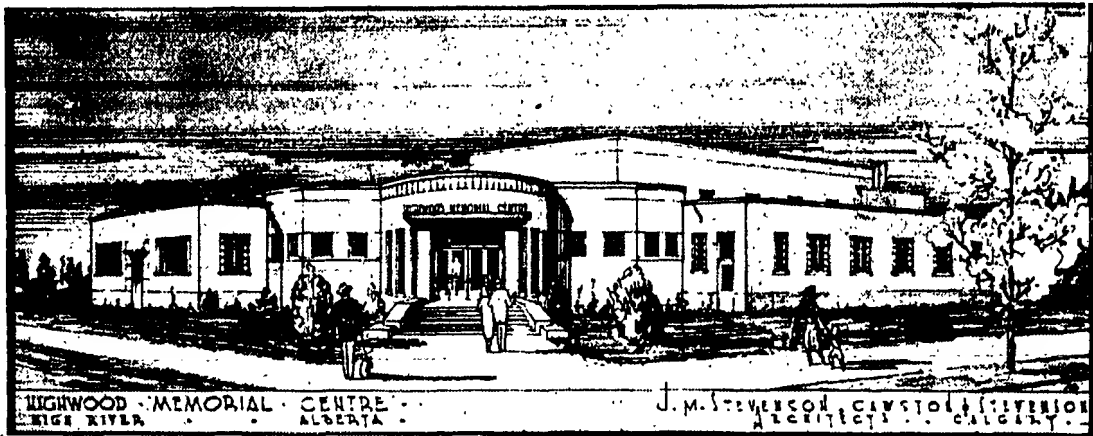
## TOURIST AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

For the tourist who wishes an overnight's comfort—or a lingering stay—High River offers reasonable and comfortable accommodation. There are two hotels in the town and four tourist and auto camps are conveniently located in and near High River. Some private homes open their doors to tourists during the summer season. There are ample restaurant facilities in and the near the town.

And for the family with a mobile camp, no finer camping site may be chosen than some of the beauty spots on the Mountain Highwood River which winds down from the west. There you'll find good scenery, good fishing, good resting.

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HIGHWOOD MEMORIAL CENTRE

Another praiseworthy building is the log Scout hall opposite the Memorial Centre, financed and built by supporters of the Scout-Guide organizations.

## CIVIC PRIDE

Permanency of settlement and civic pride find expression in the public buildings of a town. Residents of High River and district can point to their Highwood Memorial Centre as an outstanding example of community consciousness. This handsome structure, located in the central part of the town was built at cost of \$120,000. Donations of individuals and organizations brought over \$60,000. This community centre is equipped with large auditorium, stage and dressing rooms; adjoining banquet hall and kitchen; lounge room, public rest rooms; library; Canadian Legion lounge; Youth room; rifle range; town offices. Facilities are provided for basketball and badminton. This ambitious project is unique in any town of similar size in Canada. It is in constant use, and space allows for holding many different assemblies in the building at one time. The Centre has provided suitable quarters for the Dramatic club, Music Makers club, Foothills club, Handicraft Guild, Sketch club, Teen Town and a score of rural and town organizations and clubs.



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Adjacent to the Scout hall is the children's paddling pool, built by the Elks and maintained by the town and the Active Club.

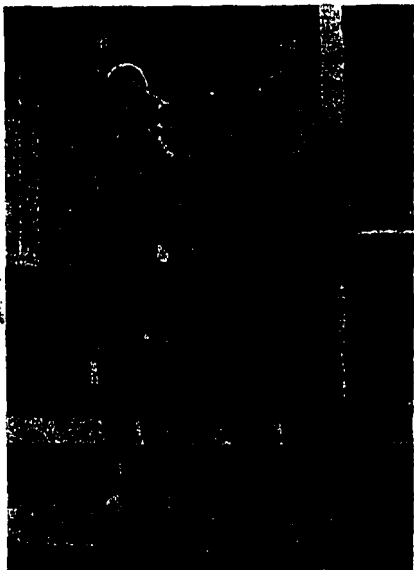
Leading from the Memorial Centre is a broad driveway opening on a municipal park, fully equipped for picnicking convenience and for play devices for little folk. A softball diamond sports grounds are a part of this park. Encircled by trees it is a popular rendezvous of summer months for city people as well as the community. Other little municipal parks scattered through the town add to comfort and convenience.

Boulevarded, tree bordered streets, well kept churches and other buildings are all evidence of civic pride.



## The Windsor's High River Home

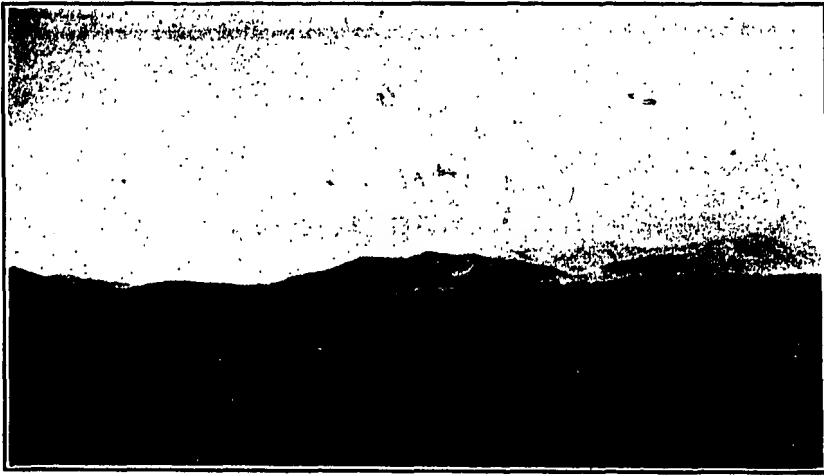
The E.P. Ranch, 28 miles west of High River, is the Canadian Home of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. They are pictured here during their brief visit in 1950. This ranch, operated and stocked on a business basis, was acquired by the Duke when as Prince of Wales he visited this foothills country and was so charmed by its beauty that he made arrangements to purchase this property.



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# Ranching



There is nothing synthetic about High River, town or district, when it comes to ranches and cowboys. It is the centre of one of the oldest cattle raising districts in Alberta, and been for many years. From the pioneer days right on up to the present, it has been the trading town of a vast ranching area. Some of the finest cattle and horses ever raised in Canada came from this section.

Before the vast range country to the east of High River became settled up and much of it developed into excellent farming land, thousands of head of stock roamed over it. Today most of the ranch country is located on the range west of High River, and extends all along the sheltered foothills country on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Among the famous old brands of this district is the Bar U, oldest operating ranch of this district, as well as the largest. It was started in 1882 and has been in operation ever since. Others are the Flying U of Willow Creek; the Anchor P, the D Ranch; the E.P.; the Hanson and the E. W. OH, Y Cross, TS, L7 Bar, TL, EV, R Bar, T Diamond, Bar S, Round T, Running N, EL, Bar KS, UB, H Bar, Two Dot, T Quarter Circle W, Diamond 7, and many others, some of which have been in existence for over half-a-century on this range.

The brand books are full of famous brands which represent early industry in the cattle land of this country.

On this range the Government regulations allot the number of acres per head of cattle for a year, which on the average run about 36 acres per animal. This is done to insure conservation of grass, so that the range will not be overstocked. Today the quality of cattle raised is far superior to



those generally run on the open range in an earlier day. For some years now ranchers have been buying the best bulls of the various beef breeds obtainable with the result that today the ranches in the High River districts turn out beef cattle that have no superior anywhere in the world. Although Herefords, Shorthorn, Angus and Galloway cattle are all raised in this vicinity, there is no doubt that the Hereford breed is the most popular and are greatest in number, although there are some mighty fine stock produced in the other breeds.

Today, although some ranches comprise a much larger acreage than others the tendency has been more ranches carrying smaller numbers of better cattle than in the days of the open range when cattle drifted for miles all over the country.

While there are ranches today ranging in size from those running 100 head up to some running from 4,000 to 5,000 head, a good average in this district would be around 200 head to the ranch.

### **HORSES . . .**

This district has always been noted for its good horses. Today with so much machinery being used on farms, the demand for heavy horses has almost disappeared but light horses are still raised for ranch work and pleasure riding. The thoroughbred once a great favorite in Western Canada has still a large following, for jumpers and racing, but for pleasure riding, stock work, etc., there has been and still continues to be an increasing demand for Quarter horses, Palominos, American Saddle type, Tennessee Walking horses, etc., all of these breeds being well represented in the High River district.



**THE RIO ALTO RANGE**

**FIRST WITH THE NEWS AND THE NEWS PICTURES — READ**

**The Albertan**

**YOUR GOOD MORNING NEWSPAPER**

# Early Settlement



In the "eighties" hard riding cowpokes and adventuresome young squatters trailed herds of cattle and horses into this area. That was before the advent of railways, barbed wire and income tax. Little wonder that they looked upon this land as a stockman's mecca. Abundance of water, lush natural grazing and recurring "Chinooks" in winter offered ideal stock country to the newcomers.

Many others followed the overland trails and homesteading commenced in a land where life was free, simple, but frequently rugged for those with meager equipment. Early farm activities centered largely on home sufficiency, because markets were few and distant with transportation slow and tedious. Newly established farmsteads soon dotted the landscape. Some were indeed, temporary, for their founders wanted only to make their "stake" and go elsewhere. On the other hand, there were those who struck roots deep, staying to contribute their share to the advancement of the district. The ancestry of these early settlers was truly a heterogeneous mixture, for they came from all parts, but they had a common purpose and worked together toward a single goal.

Their optimism was infectious. Their ambitious perseverance, friendliness and sterling qualities of character have been passed on to succeeding generations and still serve as an inspiration today.

It is a pleasure and indeed a privilege to express our tribute to the "Old Timers" of those early pioneering achievements.



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## TOWN IS MODERN

When High River was incorporated as a town in 1906, its population of 1200 and scattered rural settlement were served by three general stores, three churches, four blacksmith shops, four hotels, twenty-three real estate agents. The town depended on candles and oil lamps for light, and the back-yard well was source of water supply. There were no sidewalks, no streets. There was no fire brigade for fire protection. The down-town business places were mainly false fronted, of temporary nature.

Today the town boasts every city facility and comfort together with advantages of more space and freedom. Streets and cement sidewalks are up-to-date. Over 95% of the population is served by waterworks, and sewage extension now covers a large section of the town. A modernly equipped fire brigade gives excellent service, holding insurance premiums to very low rate. Calgary Power and Canadian Western Natural Gas agreements provide constant light, heat and power at reasonable rates. The four blacksmith shops have dwindled to two. There are now two hotels and a government liquor store. The three churches have grown to eight, and real estate offices have been reduced to three.

Amongst the most significant changes through the decades has been the development in shopping service. Instead of those three general stores there are now thirty or more merchandizing houses of various sorts to serve townspeople now numbering over 2000, together with a contiguous rural population occupying 500 sections of farm land and 600 sections of ranch land. There are department stores and specialty shops catering to every conceivable taste and need, all carrying a wide range of goods at competitive city prices. Courtesy and service are the keynote of these shops.

Keeping abreast with the times the temporary buildings of early days have been replaced with modern building of pleasing architecture and substantial structure. New business blocks follow the modern trend, and the whole face and substance of the business section are changing in respect to attractive exterior and well lighted, well stocked interiors. High River is growing up.



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## THE LIBRARY

The local Rotary Club decided in the Fall of 1938, that High River needed a Library, and asked for volunteers among interested women to undertake the operation of the project.

Nineteen ladies agreed to see what they could do for the reading public of High River, and twelve years later, six of the original group of women are still active on a Board of ten members.

The Library opened in the Council Chambers of the old Town Hall on January 14th, 1939, with less than 1,000 used books on the shelves obtained by a canvass made by the Rotary Club. The assets included two ten dollar credits, a cash gift of five dollars, a room in which to operate one day each week, provided through the courtesy of the Town Council, and outstanding accounts for shelving and supplies.

Fines, membership cards, and special rentals have provided the only source of income, and as an indication of growth, these receipts have increased from less than eight dollars in 1939 to more than four hundred dollars in 1949. The popularity of the Library is evident in the circulation, which has progressed from 2,500 books borrowed during the first year of operation to more than 9,000 in 1949, and the Library Board is proud of the fact that children borrow one-third of the 4,000 books now on the shelves.

With a few exceptions, the original collection of donated books have been replaced with new volumes, and the Library keeps pace with all the latest publications. Its purchases are aided by a Provincial Government grant not exceeding \$300.00, which in effect means that \$600 can be spent annually on new reading material. In addition, the Town provides a small grant for Librarian service each Saturday.

Until 1950, the Library operated solely with the support of its members, without ever appealing to the public for financial aid. With the transfer to the new quarters in the Memorial Centre and the subsequent need for furnishings, many individuals and a few organizations gave generous assistance.



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## High River Homes

Pride in home and grounds is a noticeable feature of High River residences. This probably is because most of our citizens are owners of their property and they exercise their time and skill on beautifying their surroundings. Not cramped for space, trees, shrubs and landscaping appear about most homes. New homesites appear weekly as the town goes forward in its steady growth.



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A Cattle Drive on the D Ranch in the Foothills West of High River

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HIGH RIVER TIMES